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BIBLIOGRAPHY OF CALIFORNIA ORNITHOLOGY. THIRD INSTALLMENT. TO END OF 1938. By Joseph Grinnell. Pacific Coast Avifauna No. 26. Dec. 8, 1939. (235 pp.). \$4.00.

As Joseph Grinnell himself once said, "It is only through the laborious activities of indexers and bibliographers that the working ornithologist can gain access to, and keep track of, the huge literature in his field." In this important branch of ornithological work Dr. Grinnell was long a leader, and with the publication of this volume he had completed the gigantic task of recording 6,840 scientific references to California birds which appeared in print before 1939. The thoroughness of his search can be attested by all ornithologists who have used his earlier volumes of bibliography. They know how rare it is to find an over-looked title.

If anyone thinks that a book made up principally of 2,769 references must be dull, he will be surprised by the exciting reading to be found in this volume. A large proportion of the references are annotated by Grinnell, and these critical or explanatory comments greatly increase the value of the bibliography. His precise use of a large vocabulary gives a most refreshing and characteristic flavor to many of the notes.

In addition to the list of titles there is an index to the 612 authors, an index to local lists, and an index to bird names, both common and scientific.

We are not yet wholly convinced that a chronological grouping of titles is the best possible arrangement of such a bibliography but, perhaps, once begun it must be continued. The format of this volume follows that of the earlier ones, including the rather extravagant spacing of titles on the page and the inconvenient and space-consuming use of Roman numerals for volume numbers.

This is not just another reference work to be filed away for possible use; it is a book to be read by all serious ornithologists. It brings to us a sharp realization of how much we are going to miss Joseph Grinnell.—J. VAN TYNE.